

grocery bill by \$3,500 a year at a time when people are already worried about the high price of groceries. How can they do this? Things like eggs are already too expensive, but Republicans want to slap another \$1.50 on that price. The plan would make a gallon of milk cost another \$1.70 more.

The shock waves go way beyond trips to the grocery store, as painful as those have been. The Republican tax would erode the value of retirement plans, Social Security, pensions and 401(k)s by nearly one-third, an insulting way—insulting—to treat people who have spent their entire lives saving up in order to retire with some degree of dignity.

In all my years in office—in all my years in office—I have rarely seen such an extreme proposal be taken seriously by a governing majority. It is another reminder of how radical, how out of touch, how unserious MAGA Republicans are about governing. All they want to do is help their very ultrarich friends. And the fact that the House leadership is catering to the delusional whims of MAGA extremism should send a shiver down every one of our spines.

GUNS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now finally on guns, it is another tragic week of mass shootings, but gun manufacturers continue to stoop to disgusting and morally bankrupt new lows. I am talking about a weapon currently for sale that is actually being marketed by one gunmaker to children. It has a disgusting, horrifying name: the JR-15. The JR-15. You heard me right. That is what they call it. The JR-15 is a spinoff, a child-sized version of an AR-15, which, according to the company marketing it, “functions like a modern sporting rifle” but is “geared to smaller enthusiasts.” Smaller enthusiasts? That is a code for “young children.”

Look at what just happened a few weeks ago in Virginia, where a 6-year-old student shot his teacher at school. We are talking about a kid in the first grade who looked at his teacher and pulled the trigger. When weapons are marketed to children, it makes horrors like what happened in Virginia more likely. Even if the weapons are marketed to adults to give to their children, it creates these terrible, terrible, terrible situations.

So later today, I and a group of my colleagues will ask the FTC to investigate the company that makes and advertises the JR-15. I want to be clear that this probe is not intended to be a cure-all for gun violence. We have a lot more to do in that regard. But we must shed more light on the prevalence of guns in our society, and regulators must take stronger steps to keep guns out of the hands of children. I hope it will pave the way for future action in Congress.

I can't believe I have to say this: The last thing we need to be doing is reduc-

ing in size deadly weapons of war and marketing them to young children. Every parent in America, every citizen in America should be outraged and demand the FTC to take action.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate is witnessing an unusual sight. Our colleague from West Virginia, Senator MANCHIN, is trying to roll back legislation that he himself wrote and passed less than a year ago. Reports say the Senator now wants Congress to delay the new electric vehicle tax credit that he himself hand-designed just last summer until he can resolve a fight with his fellow Democrats and the administration over what their own law actually says or actually does.

It would be comical if this Democrat-on-Democrat chaos weren't impacting our country. Republicans pointed out over and over that Democrats' reckless taxing-and-spending spree was unfair as well as unworkable. We said from the start this is a hugely expensive, hopelessly tangled mess of subsidies, regulations, and redtape. They raised taxes on American jobs, American families, and American energy in order to inefficiently send little chunks of the people's money back to them if they plan their lives according to unclear and changing Big Government standards.

This is the classic tax-and-spend liberal logic: The IRS takes more of your money so bureaucrats can take over more of your life. Well, it is proving just as tangled and messy for the country, as we all predicted last summer.

Our Democratic colleague from West Virginia is locked in some battle with the Democrats' own Treasury Department over the sweeping new regulations that need to be written. He seems to be suggesting that some Americans who have already received the EV tax credit—that he wrote—should have to actually pay it back. In the meantime, while Democrats keep fighting it out, the Senator apparently wants Congress to act again to halt or change the implementation of his own policy.

So good luck to American families trying to understand what on Earth does and does not qualify for the Big Government subsidies. Good luck to American businesses trying to figure

out how to direct their investments. Now, this is what happens when Democrats make it up as they go along and clumsily try to rewire huge parts of our economy on the fly.

Now, remember, the senior Senator from West Virginia has already acknowledged that other Biden policies completely cancel out the supposed deficit savings from the massive climate bill. He has admitted that President Biden's student loan socialism wipes out all of their claimed deficit savings from the Green New Deal, and then some. And now, on top of all that, the redtape and expensive subsidies are so tangled that the very Senator who wrote the law now wants to delay or change it.

This has been a terrible deal for the country right from the beginning. Nonpartisan experts said the Democrats' boondoggle would increase inflation in the short term and do nothing for inflation in the long term. Nonpartisan experts said it would shatter President Biden's promise not to impact middle-class families with tax hikes. Nonpartisan experts said that none of it would have any—any—measurable impact on the global temperature.

And now, apparently, even the author of the bill wants Congress to rescue the country from his own handiwork. This is no way to run a country. People need to plan their lives. Businesses need to plan their futures and their investments. How can American workers and entrepreneurs do what they do best if Washington Democrats are micromanaging the economy and changing their mind every 5 minutes?

So, to summarize, we have a Senator asking Congress to delay and modify the signature bill that he himself wrote less than a year ago. We have American families being treated as pawns in a fight between Democrats and other Democrats. This bill was already an incredibly bad deal for the country, and the giant mess gets worse and worse every day.

GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, some things in life are just constants: The Sun rises in the east, water is wet, and Democratic administrations look for ways to let terrorists out of Guantanamo Bay.

The Biden administration has already overseen the largest terrorist jailbreak in modern memory when they abandoned the Bagram Air Base prison in Afghanistan. They let the Taliban waltz in and free thousands of terrorists, reportedly including the ISIS-K suicide bomber who killed our 13 American servicemembers in Kabul during the Biden administration's botched withdrawal.

Now, rumor has it they are considering writing a sequel to that jailbreak by continuing the Obama-Biden administration's literal obsession with removing terrorists from our secure and

legal detention facility at Guantánamo.

Let's get a few things straight. The American people are safer and more secure because monsters like Khalid Shaikh Mohammed are off the battlefield and behind bars where they belong. When the Obama administration wanted to bring these terrorists to America, introduce them into the American judicial and prison systems, the Congress, on an overwhelming, overwhelming bipartisan basis, said no. But the progressive leftists in the Biden administration don't seem to care. They seem more concerned about the views of European human rights activists than about key national security concerns and complex legal questions.

So new reports suggest that President Biden and his team are trying to cut plea deals with these terrorists and war criminals. They want to cut these guys deals.

What would the deals look like? No one knows. They won't tell anybody. Would they be transferred into our own taxpayer-funded justice system for American citizens? Are we going to have hardened terrorists moving through the streets of Manhattan, with terrorist lawyers getting the rights and access that pertain to defense counsel?

Mayor Adams is already saying New York can't cope with President Biden's open southern border, and now the NYPD could have to babysit terrorists as well? Or is the plan military commissions, in which case, what concessions is the President planning to make to these murderers to get their activist lawyers to accept that forum?

Or does the administration intend to follow the Obama administration's model and rely on third parties and other countries to do the dirty work of detention? Well, of course, if you are going to send these people to other countries, that requires allies who are reliable, responsible, and actually willing to take these terrorists. Does President Biden plan to gamble on an Iraqi Government that is increasingly under the influence of Iran? Or do they want to double down on detention facilities run by Syrian Kurdish partners in areas that are not yet under the control of the Assad regime?

There is already no plan for Europe to reabsorb their citizens who fought for ISIS and are currently detained by the SDF. We are going to add to those ranks?

There is a huge long list of practical problems the administration needs to consider before they toy with risky plans to shutter a perfectly good facility at Guantánamo Bay for no good reason. The Biden administration has got to rediscover some common sense.

Now, I understand that liberal activists are willing to leave innocent American families in greater danger in exchange for a little bit of leftwing symbolism, but our Commander in Chief has a higher duty.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 13, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 13) raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2023 as "National Stalking Awareness Month".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have served in the House and Senate for a number of years. One of the issues that has always been of interest to me is tobacco. I lost my father to lung cancer when I was 14 years old. He was 53. Two packs of Camels a day, and he died of lung cancer. I have thought about that a lot throughout my life.

When I was elected to the House of Representatives, I decided to start asking a few questions about tobacco and government subsidies and government policies. It was not the most popular position I ever took within the House of Representatives. There was generally a rule—or at least a custom—of never raising the issue. I did. It resulted in a decision by the House of Representatives that surprised almost everyone.

I introduced an amendment to ban smoking on airplanes. It was opposed by not only my own party leadership but the leadership of the Republican Party. Yet we prevailed. It turned out that the Members of the House of Representatives represented one of the largest frequent flier clubs in America, and they were sick and tired of second-hand smoke in airplanes.

I called on Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey to be my ally on this side of the Rotunda, and he was successful in passing the legislation with me, which was signed into law.

People started asking obvious questions about secondhand smoke: If it is dangerous in an airplane, why is it not dangerous on the train, the bus, at a hospital, in an office building, in a restaurant?

So, to my surprise, this measure to make clean air more prevalent on airplanes ended up being a tipping point in American history on tobacco policy. Everything started changing—and fast.

Lives were saved. People were discouraged from smoking. Tobacco companies, which had been untouchable to that point, were not only touchable, they were vulnerable. And they had to sit down and devise a new policy to make money.

Now, the premise of tobacco was to entice young people to start smoking at an early age, and the chemicals in tobacco, like nicotine, were addictive. People knew, in the tobacco industry, that if you could drag kids into smoking at an early age and get them addicted, they might face a lifetime with that addiction and, ultimately, die from it, but they would have loyal customers to the tobacco companies, and they would continue to make money.

When we started raising questions about tobacco, the tobacco companies needed an alternative. They found it. Do you know what it was? It was e-cigarettes and vaping. The tobacco companies made big investments in these companies—selling them as a new marketable product that was a lot safer—though, it wasn't—and creating addictions among children by advertising and selling fruit-flavored, bubble gum-flavored vaping devices that looked an awful lot like something you would carry around for your computer.

Visit a high school in America today in your State or visit a junior high or a middle school, for that matter. Ask the teachers and administrators what the prevalence is of vaping and e-cigarettes among the kids in these schools. You will be shocked to learn that kids mistakenly believe that these are harmless; yet they are extremely addictive—e-cigarettes and vaping.

So I contacted the Food and Drug Administration, which has the legal authority to regulate these products, and said: What are you going to do about it? Well, they weren't quite sure what to do about it. That is why I have come to the floor today—to tell you, up-to-date, what was just announced.

The decade-long delay from the Food and Drug Administration to properly regulate vaping and e-cigarettes is in a league of its own in the modern history of that Agency. You see, under the law known as premarket review, no tobacco product—and vaping is a tobacco product using tobacco chemicals like nicotine—is permitted on store shelves unless the producer, the manufacturer, proves—listen—proves to the Food and Drug Administration in advance, prior to selling the product on the market, that it is "appropriate for the protection of public health."

For years, the Food and Drug Administration, despite this charge under the law, has ignored it. Instead, they sit back as millions—millions—of e-cigarettes in fruit, mint, candy flavors, even with cartoon images, are illegally flooding the market and addicting America's children. The Food and Drug Administration watched as this happened. It was so bad that in year 2019—4 years ago—a Federal judge intervened, ruling that the Food and Drug